



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502  
www.deq.idaho.gov

Governor Brad Little  
Director John H. Tippetts

February 6, 2019

Jason Evens, General Manager  
U.S. Ecology Idaho, Inc.  
P.O. Box 400  
Grand View, ID 83624

**RE: Temporary Authorization for a Class 2 Permit Modification Request  
Interim Phase Direct Disposal Operations  
U.S. Ecology Idaho Inc. (USEI) Site B  
US EPA ID No.: IDD073114654**

Dear Mr. Evens:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received the above referenced Class 2 Permit Modification Request and Request for Temporary Authorization (TA) on January 25, 2019. This Request combined with a January 31, 2019 Professional Engineer's Certification that Landfill Cells are undamaged and ready to receive waste and a February 1, 2019 letter certifying the required ancillary equipment is in place and functional for direct landfill operations is considered to be the TA application.

DEQ has completed a review of the Permit Modification/TA request. The proposed modification includes modifications to Attachments in the current Part B Permit with selected components of the existing Waste Analysis Plan to be used for the direct disposal of waste during the interim phase operations at the Facility.

The interim phase is being defined as the first period of limited landfill operation since the November 17, 2018, incident. The TA was requested to prevent the disruption of ongoing waste management activities. DEQ has determined that the TA request is consistent with the regulations found at IDAPA 58.01.05.012 [40 CFR 270.42(e)] and contains a description of the activities to be conducted, and sufficient information to ensure compliance with IDAPA 58.01.05.008 [40 CFR Part 264].

Offsite wastes for direct disposal in the landfill cells will be limited to bulk solids, or sludges without free liquids as determined by the paint filter test (EPA Method 9095B). Hazardous waste meeting Land Disposal Restriction (LDR) standards (IDAPA58.01.05.011 [40 CFR Part 268]) and non-hazardous waste may be accepted. Bulk liquids that are hazardous waste meeting LDR standards and non-





hazardous wastes may be accepted for placement in the Evaporation Pond. Receipt, treatment and/or disposal of lab packs is not authorized.

Only containers onsite at the time of the November 17<sup>th</sup> incident, destined for direct burial in the landfill may be disposed in the landfill if the waste was received and passed the fingerprint analysis prior to November 17, 2018. All other containers will be managed in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.011 [40 CFR 268]. No containerized waste will be accepted at the facility during the interim operating phase.

The facility will not act as a transfer facility as per IDAPA 58.01.05.007 [40 CFR 263.12] for manifested hazardous waste.

All site employees need to be trained on the locations, sound and proper operation of the air horns prior to initiation of landfill operations.

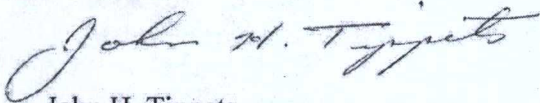
The Vehicle Wash must be operational and used for all vehicles depositing waste in the landfill. Vehicles delivering waste for landfill disposal must be prioritized as expeditiously as possible to avoid any unnecessary delays or deviations once on site.

A list of concerns to be addressed is attached. These concerns must be resolved before operations commence.

Based on the request for Temporary Authorization and the information supplied in the modification request, DEQ has determined the request meets the objectives of IDAPA 58.01.05.012 [40 CFR 270.42(e)(3)(i), (e)(3)(ii)(C), and (e)(3)(ii)(E)] and approves the Temporary Authorization effective February 7, 2019. The Temporary Authorization application hereby becomes incorporated in its entirety by reference into the Temporary Authorization. In accordance with IDAPA 58.01.05.012 [40 CFR 270.42(e)(1)] this TA has a term of not more than 180 days.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Natalie Creed at (208) 373-0506.

Sincerely,



John H. Tippetts  
Director

Attachment

cc: Barbara McCullough, EPA Region 10  
Lon Stewart/Esbpmm6



*Attachment A*

1. **Appendices:** Please supply title pages for Appendices B and C.
2. **Appendix D: Incoming Shipments:** Explain why USEI plans to receive deliveries of reagent when the facility will only be taking waste that is limited to direct disposal without treatment.
3. **Appendix D: Incoming Waste:** The facility must clarify the source of wastes during this TA. The request indicates the TA is necessary to receive wastes from the Rail Transfer Facility while elsewhere the text indicates that wastes can be accepted from any source for direct disposal during the time of the Temporary Authorization. Clarify and add more explanation if the intention is to receive bulk loads from other sources. Will bulk liquids be received from the RTF or from other sources too?
4. **Appendix D: Waste Analysis Plan (WAP) Activities During the Interim Phase at US Ecology Idaho (USEI)**
  - a. Section C.5.1 of the WAP includes cyanide and sulfide screens in the fingerprint analysis to check for gas generation. Section C.5.1 indicates the wastes will not be screened if the waste is not water soluble. Referring to the Test methods in Table C-7, for cyanide and sulfide screens, the tests are not limited to water soluble wastes. The test wets the sample with acid and uses test strips to identify gases being liberated. Water solubility has no bearing upon whether the screening should be performed. The Interim Phase WAP needs to be modified to include cyanide and sulfide screens as part of the fingerprint analysis.
  - b. Fine waste determination is also a fingerprint analysis in Section C.5.1 of the WAP and needs to be included as a recognized screening for inbound interim phase waste.
  - c. Bulk solids shall be sampled at the rate described in Section C.7.1.2, not Section C.7.1.3 as described in the last paragraph of the Incoming Waste Shipment Procedures, correct the citation.
  - d. The Supplemental Analysis section needs to be expanded to state that if supplemental analysis is needed, the waste will not be deposited in the landfill or Evaporation Pond until the supplemental analysis results are obtained that satisfy the acceptance criteria.
5. **Attachment 3, Drawing PRMI-T10:** The print within the "Legend" is too small to be legible on the paper copy and too blurred when expanded on the electronic version. Supply a version that can be read easily without the use of higher magnification. The Drawing contains a large amount of data and only shows a changed version, provide a redline version, hand drawn circled items showing the changes made to the drawing would be sufficient. Further, the title of the Drawing needs to be changed by removing the word "Typical." This is not a "typical" situation, this is a drawing showing the location of specific communication and emergency response equipment on location.



6. **Section F.3.a(1):** The air horn boxes shall be checked more frequently than monthly. The sirens and strobes have been removed from the list of emergency equipment, leaving only the air horns as a method of area wide notification to all employees. The air horns are a new system that can be easily tampered with and have no discernable method to know if the units are charged and ready for use. To fit existing inspection schedules, the air horn boxes shall be inspected daily.
7. **Section F.4.a.(2):** All five paragraphs of the section give the impression that bulk liquids may be commingled and stored in tanks prior to being sent to the Evaporation Pond. The temporary authorization requests for wastes to go direct to landfill and what appears to be bulk liquids going direct to the Evaporation Pond. Rework Section F.4.a.(2) to eliminate the language referring to multiple liquids, batch operations or tank storage. Modify the section to state bulk liquids will be discharged into the Evaporation Pond after the required compatibility testing with pond water.
8. **Section F.4.a.(3):** The Facility is not authorized to accept containerized waste during the interim operational time period. The section needs to be modified to remove language regarding unloading incoming waste. DEQ recognizes that containers are onsite and may need to be moved and unloaded onsite requiring the use of specified hazard preventions. Modify the section to remove language referring to unloading incoming containerized waste.
9. **Section F.5.b last paragraph:** The use of Group E materials, as defined in Table C-9 of the WAP appears to be inappropriate for a fill material to separate incompatibles. Group E contains a list of flammable and combustible materials and reactive metals. Group E materials were being processed at the time of the November 17<sup>th</sup> incident. Using Group E materials as a filler to separate potentially incompatible materials by 3 feet does not appear to be a safe operating practice. The use of Group E material as a filler should be removed from the paragraph and the practice discontinued.
10. **Section F.5.f:** During the interim operational phase, no new waste streams will be introduced into the tanks. The section needs to be modified to remove the language regarding testing for compatibility with new waste streams.